The Most Renowned and Pleasant

HISTORY

OF

PARISMUS.

CONTEYNING

His Triumphant Battels Fought against the *Persians*, his love to the Beautiful Princess *Laurana*, the great dangers he passed in the *Island of Rocks* and of his strange Adventures in the *Desolate Island*.

TOGETHER,

With the adventurous Travels, and Noble Chivalry of **Parismenos** the *Knight of Fame*, with his Love to the Fair Princess **Angelica**, the Lady of the *Golden Tower*.

With Allowance, Ro. L'Estrange.

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CHAP. I.

How *Parismus* Prince of *Bohemia* arrived in *Thessaly*, and by the assistance of his Friend *Orastus* got a sight of the incomparable Princess *Laurana*.

PArismus, Son and heir apparent to the King of Bohemia, having at home given sufficient testimony of his Princely courage, began now to think of manifesting his valour abroad, and led especially by the Fame of Laurana, Heiress to the Crown of Thessaly, and Daughter to Dionisius King thereof; he determined with an Honourable Retinue to visit the Court of Thebes, the Metropolis of that Countrey. Where being received with all imaginable courtesie and magnificence, he resolved to spend some time, incouraging himself with secret hopes of enjoying the beloved (though yet unseen) Laurana. Nor was Parismus the only person that entertained those groundless hopes, for as the world was filled with the reports, so was her Fathers Court with Princes that continually resorted thither in hopes of gaining her affection. Amongst whom was one Sicanus Prince of Persia, who, with the King and Queen of Hungary, Prince of Sparta, and Lady Isabella, came thither about the same time, and upon the same account.

Dionysius, famous as well for the Hospitality of his Court, as the beauty of his Daughter, entertain'd them with like courtesie and civility, but Laurana, who had observed the two Princes severally at their approach, conceived in her tender heart, inclination rather to like Parismus than Sicanus; not that she knew either their Names or their qualities, much less their names, or of what Countrey they were; but seeing Parismus enter the Pallace, being a Creature of courtly Gesture, and Masculine beauty, she could not refrain from calling Leda her Maid to the Chamber-window to ask her opinion concerning him; nor from speaking many things in commendation of so worthy a Personage.

No sooner had he withdrawn himself and entred the Pallace, but Laurana began insensibly to find in her self a sensible alteration, sometimes she blusht as if she had been in a fault, & then presently she look'd pale, for fear of being discover'd; sometimes she sigh'd, which she endeavoured to drown in a cough and sometimes study'd, which she always put off with a smile: this diversity of passions she no more knew how to prevent, than to guess from whence they came; but Leda being a more experienc'd Amorist, soon guest at the distemper by the Symptomes, and though she seem'd to discern nothing, because the fair Lady desir'd to have it so, yet she easily found all the Signs and Tokens of an ensuing fit of Love.

Dionysius

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Dionysius in the mean time entertaining the young Princes, and with all the Splendor of his Court, (excepting the fair Laurana) gave all the satisfaction and content they could wish or imagine; onely Parisius fill'd with the expectation of so divine a creature, could take delight in of all the costly delicacies there provided: which, while the other Guests lavishly wasted and devoured, he in the mean time cautiously fed himself with the despair of seeing Laurana. Howsoever, he seemed to do like the rest, that so his concernment might not be misconstrued, as an effect of his disease: not truly construed, for an effect of his love. Dinner ended (with Parisius before it begun) the company retired into the Gardens, which were most sumptuous and delightful, as well for use as Ornament and fraught with all manner of fruits to please the Pallate, as well as Flowers to gratifie the other senses. Here, while the Nobles were diverting themselves according to their several inclinations, Parisius singling out his trusty friend Oristus, took him aside to a private & melancholly walk in the Wilderness, & there after some leading questions about indifferent matters, he came to ask him how he liked the Court of Dionysius, & whether those Gardens were not much more pleasant than any in Bohemia? &c. To all which Oristus having answer'd in such a manner as he thought might best please the Prince, he at last desired pardon of Parisius, if he likewise might presume without offence to ask his Highness one innocent Question; to whom Parisius replyed, that an innocent question could offend none but a churlish disposition, though propounded by an enemy or Stranger, much less from a bosome-friend; then, replyed Oristus, is not my Lord in trouble of mind that he hath not yet enjoy'd the sight of his beloved Laurana? to whom Parisius replyed, My dear Oristus, thou art so much the partaker of my heart, that I can keep no secret from thee; and when for a time I endeavour to be so unkind, my very self discovers that which I endeavour to conceal. 'Tis that, and only that which disquieteth me, and takes from me the beauty of those delightful gardens, and indeed, of every place where she is not, or at least, not to be seen. Oristus perceiving him grow into a kind of amorous extacy, desired him to mitigate his passion, and he question'd not but by the interest he had in the Lord Remus (a great favourite) to procure him, not only the sight, but the speech of the admired Lady, which for the present gave him some satisfaction, being willing to be ruled by him, so much desired, tho' at present he saw no way how it might probably be effected.

The Evening wasting with many delightful & princely exercises, they began to think of repairing every one to their respective lodgings, whither they were severally attended; and tho' the Apartment allotted for Parisius were

gly adorned then any of the rest, yet such was his disquiet of mind, notwithstanding the comfort Oristus gave him, he took little rest that night, but spent the solitary houres in contemplation of a person he had never seen, & in framing for her such features as were best pleasing to himself. Early in the Morning, Dionysius, according to his custome, rose to go a hunting; and visiting his guests of chiefest note, desired their company; but Oristus purposing to performe his promise, stay'd behind with the Lord Remus, who invited him to take a walk in the Gardens, and view the Magnificent Heigth, & Spacious Circumference of the Pallace: which, when Oristus had sufficiently viewed, but could never sufficiently admire; as they were returning by the way of the Privy-Garden, they were happily met by the Illustrous Laurana, who, with her Maid Leda was coming to take the benefit of the Morning air, at a time she thought all the Strangers of the Court had been rode a Hunting; she at first started at the sight of the strange Knight, but seeing him in the company of the Lord Remus, she came with the greater confidence, and said, I thought, my Lord, this fine morning would certainly have drawn your Lordship into the field: who have alwaies been a profest Huntsman: Truly Madam, said he, were I alwaies sure to be thus rewarded with a sight of the Princess Laurana, I doubt I should prove but a very lazy Huntsman: I confess at this time I design'd not my self so great an happiness, but stay'd in civility to this Gentleman, who had otherwise been alone. Then recommending Oristus to a kiss of her fair hand, she modestly gave him a hearty welcome to her Fathers Court, and pursued her walk. Oristus understanding her to be the Princess, thought himself made most happy by this encounter, and being informed by the Lord Remus of her Apartment, he took particular notice thereof, and so in civility left the Princess to her private Cogitations.

The King and Train returning about noon, Parismus, who took but small delight in the pastime of the morning, came with an amorous impatience to enquire of Oristus what news, whether he had seen his fair one, or discovered her Apartment. But Oristus, having desired his Highness jestingly to be a little patient, and not to ask two questions before he had answered one gave him a full account of all that had happened, with such high commendations of the Princess, as had been flattery of any Woman but her self. With what joyful cheerfulness Parismus heard him, let the Reader judge; & yet therewith no way satisfied he almost envyed even his dearest friend so great an happiness. However, being certified of her Lodging, he resolved within himself to walk thither continually in hopes of beholding his eyes with so divine a spectacle.

le. In prosecution of which design, taking a small book out of his Pocket, & dismissing Oristus, he immediately repaired to the Tarras walk, just under her Chamber; and there made several turns, casting an eye much oftner towards her Window, than towards the little Volume he had in his hand, as hoping indeed to see there much the fairer impression of the two, Laurana by this time opening the Casement, upon some accidental occasion, & not seeing the Prince, gave him unawares the full view of her face, which sight he so eagerly injoy'd that he had almost lost himself in admiration; as sometimes poor hunger-starved Mariners long detained from food, have devoured their meat at first, so greedily that they have immediately perished therewith. But to keep the Prince from surfeiting, Laurana had no sooner espy'd there a strange Knight, but she immediately clapt to the Casement, and through the Crevices thereof gave her self the satisfaction she denyed her lover, who understanding by his friend Oristus that the King waited his company at dinner, was forced to quit the Tarras, and betake himself to a banquet far less delightful then what he there enjoyed.

The greatest part of Dinner-time he spent in contemplation of his late happy success in enjoying the sight of his beloved; the rest he imployed in contriving how he might come to the speech of her, which, having modelled according to his fancy, he rose as it were abruptly from the Table, and withdrawing himself to his Quarters, sent an excuse to the King by one of his Servants, desiring his Majesties Gracious Pardon for his rude departure which he hoped the indisposition of his body would excuse. Dionysius concern'd for the Princes sickness, as soon as dinner was ended, went to give him a visit, which Parismus suspecting, he set a Page at his Chamber-door to acquaint his Majesty, or any else that should come there, that the Prince was in a slumber, & desired not to be disturbed. This excuse gave Dionysius satisfaction for the present, & Parismus opportunity to carry on the design of seeing his Mistris, unsuspected, which he effected in manner following:

CHAP. II.

How *Parismus* discovered his love to *Laurana* at a Masque, who (to their great Disquiet) is promised by the King her Father, in Marriage to his Rival *Sicanus*, Son to the Emperour of *Persia*; Letters that passed between *Parismus* and *Laurana*, and the jealous envy of *Sicanus*.

Having understood from his friend Oristus, by information of the Lord Remus, that this was Laurana's Birth-day, and that the Queen Olivia had ordered a Royal Banquet to be prepared for the entertainment of her Princely Guests, at which Laurana was to appear in publike (which she never

never did but upon such occasions) Parismus projected with Oristus, and some other of the Bohemian Court, to entertain the company with a Mask, hoping by that device to attain to the speech of the incomparable Laurana, to which end he had counterfeited sickness to avoid suspition; this design being secretly carried on, supper-time approach'd, which, with the sumptuousness of the entertainment, and the presence of the admired Laurana, gave infinite satisfaction to the partakers. And now the company of the Bohemian Prince seem'd to be the onely thing wanting to make their happiness compleat, especially to the inestimable Princess, who not daring to make any enquiry, wondred that among so many worthy Knights she could not espy the Princely countenance of that gallant person she had the same day seen walking in the Tarras. While she was in these contemplations, notice was given, that a set of Masquers were entring to divert that Royall Assembly, which after preparation made, were admitted accordingly, and entred in this manner:

First, entered two Boys in white Sattin, with Torches or Flambeaux, and after them as many Eunuchs in cloath of Gold, playing on Windmusick, then appeared the Illustrious Parismus in a most beautiful disguise, dancing a Sarabrand; next after him followed Oristus, and after him the Lord Remus, with two other Knights of the Bohemian Court, all most richly apparelled, and performing their several parts to admiration. But so infinitely surpassing was Parismus, as well in the shape of his body as the excellency of his motion, that he attracted the eyes of all spectators, especially hers whom he most regarded, the matchless Laurana's. To whom in a submissive manner he addressed himself, and took her out to dance, Lord Remus took out the Lady Isabella, Oristus another Spartan Lady, &c. So that altogether dancing a Figure-dance, the resting times and interballs Parismus imployed in making himself known to the Lady of his affections. The Masque ending with the applause of every Judicious and Impartial eye, Dionysius addrest himself to the Masquers, returning them hearty thanks for the diversion they had given them, and desiring them to accept of a small Banquet his Daughter had prepared for them upon her Birth-day. This Parismus accepted of with his humble thanks, not so much for the sake of the Banquet, as for her that prepar'd it. And therefore to keep the King no longer in suspense, he pull'd of his vizard, and discovered himself to be the Bohemian Prince. Parismus said the King smiling, I am glad you are so soon recover'd. But now I see the cause of your distemper, and cease to wonder at your sudden sickness, and departure from dinner, which Parismus again excusing, & saluting the whole company, they all applauded his Princely behaviour, and

courteous

courteous ingenuity, except the malicious Sicanus, who immediately quitted the room with an apparent shew of dislike and discontent.

The rest of the company with-drawing into the Banqueting-house at the request of Olivia, where they were agen most magnificently treated with such delicates as the ingenuity of Laurana could invent; with which, tho' Parismus were highly pleased, he could not forbear lobing very frequently upon Laurana; by which meanes, tho' he satisfied his own curiosity, he robbed the poor Princess of many opportunities of viewing her Parismus. Nevertheless she had sometimes the luck to steal a glance, as she thought, undiscerned by any, tho' at the same time the whole company observed it, which caused many Nobles, especially the Friends of Sicanus, to envy the private kindness Laurana seem'd to have for the Prince of Bohemia: of which, when they were departed, every one began to make their several construction. Thus were Parismus and Laurana mutually enamour'd each of other, as it were at first interview, and when they got to their several quarters, seperately conspired to bring about the same end, viz. The farther enjoyment of each others company; the care of which Laurana committed to Leda the Cabinet of her secrets; and Parismus to his trusty friend Oristus, with whom he consulted about the same matter.

Sicanus in the mean time fretting within himself to see the Princess Laurana shew more favour to the Prince of Bohemia than the heir of Persia, openly declared to Dionysius, that the cause of his comming was, to demand the Princess in Marriage; the King of Hungary and Prince of Sparta being come as Embassadors upon the same account. To whom Dionysius made answer, that for his part he should be very glad to have his daughter married to so hopeful a Prince, and himself ally'd to so mighty an Emperour, promising withal to propose the same to Laurana, who, he doubted not, would readily enough consent to so honourable a Marriage. The Princess all this while little imagining what mischief was plotting against her, spent the night in contriving which way she might again enjoy the sweet Society of her beloved Parismus, who had no less disquiet in casting about how to come into the company of his Laurana; but early in the morning getting out of his bed, and attiring himself in a careless but comely dress, he repaired again to the old Tarras walk, as the only expedient he could think of to that purpose. He had not taken many turns, but Laurana had spied him through the Glass, and dispatching her Maid Leda upon some feeble less Errand into the garden, she concluded Parismus would have something to say to her which might be to her satisfaction. And accordingly it fell out, for as Leda was

gather-

gathering a Nosegay of the prettiest and choicest Flowers, Parismus saluted her with a courteous God-morrow, and demanded how fared her Lady the Princess? who returning thanks for his kind enquiry, satisfied him that she was in good health; I pray you Damsel, said he, present her with this Paper, and the service of one Parismus; if it may not be too great a presumption in me, nor too great a trouble to your self. I am confident, said Leda, no Message from your Highness will ever be look'd upon as presumption by the Princess, or seem a trouble to your unworthy Servant; whereupon sliding into her hand a present of no small value, he dismissed her, and again betook himself to his Walk in expectation of the event. Laurana having observed Parismus to give Leda a Paper, imagined it was for her self, and being impatient to see the Contents, met her at the Stair-foot, and suddenly breaking it open, she read these words:

Most Excellent Madam,

IF the contents of this Paper be a presumption, it is the excess of my love that has occasion'd it, so that my fault must be my excuse; but if love be a fault, how great a criminal is Parismus? Pardon me, Madam, that I dare be so confident once more to beg the favour of kissing your Royal hand, at such a time and place as your Highness shall think most convenient: for since the unhappy minute of your departure, I have not enjoy'd the least thought to my satisfaction, but the remembrance of having once seen you, and the resolution of ever being, Madam, Yours at command, Parismus.

Laurana, glad of so fair an opportunity, at the same time to obliege a man that loved her & enjoy the company of him she loved, thought no time like the present to give him an answer, and observing him to walk under her Window in seeming expectation thereof, sent him this short reply.

Most Noble Prince.

I Look upon your love to be like your self, honourable; and if so, neither is it in it self a fault, nor to tender it presumption, my maid will tell you at what time and place you may expect to meet me, which is an argument of the confidence reposed in you by LAURANA.

Joyful at the Receipt of this welcome and unexpected answer, Parismus thought himself amply recompenc'd for the misfortune he conceived to himself in not having blest his eyes with the sight of the Angelical Laurana, and having humbly returned his service by Leda, he made haste to his friend Oristus, as well to acquaint him of the happiness that had befallen him, as to avoid the censure of suspitious eyes, who might otherwise guess at his design in walking under Laurana's window; for by this time every body was

stirring

stirring about the house, and Dionysius had sent for his Daughter in order to the fore-mentioned match of Sicanus. Laurana comming with all submission to know the pleasure of her King and Father, was soon welcomed with the unwelcome news of Sicanus love, which Dionysius propos'd with all the seeming advantages that could be imagined, but in so mild a manner, that he seemed not to use the Authority of a King, but the indulgence of a father; Insomuch that though the thing propos'd was most unwelcome to her ears, she receiv'd the same with as obedient a sweetness as if she had been ready to grant her consent: whereupon Dionysius leaving Laurana to consider of it, went in person to Sicanus, and gave him all imaginable encouragement, making that day a general entertainment on purpose that Sicanus might find an opportunity of expressing his love to Laurana.

Dinner being ready, it so fortun'd that Parismus was seated just opposite to the Princess, and Sicanus a pretty way below her on the same side, so that while the one had the opportunity of viewing her perfections in their most resplendant lustre, the other had only now and then a side-view of her face, and while Parismus entertain'd her with pleasing (but common) discourse, Sicanus was so impudent to imagine he had been making Love. Thus did his Gall boyl within him for the malice he bare to Parismus, against whom he vow'd perpetual enmity from that very hour. Nevertheless, after dinner, by the Kings means he found an opportunity of discoursing Laurana, and manifesting his passion after the best manner he could, but so short it came of that vigour and sincerity she discerned in the love of Parismus, that in spight of her courteous and obliging nature, she was forced to receive it with a civil indifference, and to quit his Company in a manner little better than scornful.

CHAP. *III.*

How *Sicanus* hired three *Tartarians* to murther *Parismus*, who treacherously setting upon him in a Wood, left him for Dead, buried in leaves and moss; the grief for his loss, with the discovery of the Treason, *Sicanus*'s flight, *Dionysius* as a Pilgrim travels to *Bohemia*, and at last declares himself to *Parismus*'s Father.

PArismus little imagining what had past, began with some impatience to expect the happy hour of Laurana's appointment, which being come, and the two Lovers met accordingly, we will leave them in the Arbour in mutual (but honourable) embraces, and speak a little of the malice and treason of Sicanus, who the same Evening calling to him three Tartarians of his Vassalage, after a great injunction of secrecy, and promise of reward, made

them promise to kill Parismus at a time they should find most convenient, which he doubted not to bring to pass in few daies. All things being agreed upon, Sicanus betook himself to rest, and poor Parismus having by this time taken his unwelcome leave of Laurana, repaired likewise to his Chamber, where, having taken rest proportionable to the comfort he received from the Princess, he was ready with the earliest the next morning to go a Hawking, it being a match of Sicanus making, on purpose to draw him into the Field: but the morning proving somewhat hazy, and unfit for that kind of exercise, most of the company would have put off the Match till another day; but so unfortunate was Sicanus, that in complaisance to his humour they must go, tho' many of them (especially Parismus) much against their wills: they had but little pastime all the morning, till at last springing an eye of Pheasants in a large Champaign, they slew a cast of Goshawks, one of which immediately took a young Pult at the Pounce, the other undertaking the old Hen, slew her into a large Wood at a great distance under the wind, this none observed but Parismus, who rode up on speed and was followed by the Tartarians; who taking that opportunity, unarm'd as he was, and dismounted in the thickest of the Wood, fell upon him, and gave him many Wounds, one of which, in humane reason had been enough to have destroyed the stoutest he art breathing; at last concluding him fully dead, they buried him with leaves and Moss, and return'd unsuspected to the company.

Their sport being now past the best, and even then not good the King began to invite them homewards, and missing Parismus, wonder'd where he might be; but all concluding him driven to the Court by stress of weather, for the present they made no further search: nevertheless Oristus his heart misgave him least some mischance might have befallen him, so that coming to the Pallace, and not hearing the least news of him, he would not stay to dine, but with the rest of Bohemian Knights, immediately posted every way in Quest of their Lord and Master, insomuch that the whole City of Thebes rung of the absence of Parismus; night came, and Oristus with the other Knights return'd, but no news of Parismus, whereupon, after three dayes search, finding his horse lose upon the Plains of Pharsalia, they all gave him over for lost. How dreadfully this news sounded in the ears of the tender-hearted Princess, let any Reader judge who hath but read of the vertues of Laurana, and the merits of Parismus; Ah! Leda, said she, never to love but once! and to be thus crost, and that so soon, unhappy Laurana: more she said to the same purpose, that is, to none at all; for Parismus was neither to be recall'd by the complaints of his Laurana, nor the endeavours of Oristus,

tus; so that instead of mirth and jollity, nothing but grief and melancholly now filled the Thessalian Court.

Sicanus the bloody Author of all this villany, dissembled as much grief for the loss of Parismus as any of the rest, and having rewarded the barbarous Tartarians with a thousand Crowns, he began to think himself as secure from discovery, as he was free from suspition; but so it happened, that the villains disagreeing about dividing the money, one of them struck the other so mortal a stroak that in short time he dyed thereof, but upon his deathbed confessed to Oristus the manner of Parismus end; as also, that himself, with two others were hired by Sicanus to that purpose. Oristus repaired immediately to Sicanus, and in presence of the King tared him with his treachery, to which having little to say, he immediately drew a Dagger, & had like to have slain his just accuser; Whereupon there grew a tumult betwixt the Persian and Bohemian Knights, which Dionysius himself had much ado to appease. At last Sicanus betwixt fear and shame having lost three of his followers in the Skirmish, quitted the Court, and fled into his own Country, resolving to return with power, and demand the Lady, he had not Rhetorick enough to perswade.

Dionysius putting all things together, and considering the slender account he should be able to give the King of Bohemia for the murder of Parismus, in suffering the Author thereof to escape out of his Court; took upon him the habit of a Pilgrim, and fled disguised into Bohemia, to find in what manner the King resented the death of his Son. Hence began new troubles in the Court of Thebes, for missing the King at dinner, Olivia sent Messengers every way to seek him, who many times met him, but could never find him, for they enquired for him even of himself. Dionysius after some days arriving in Bohemia, took him a poor lodging neer the Court, whither he dayly resorted, and heard sad complaints for the loss of Parismus, but still with respect to the Court of Thebes, and the Hospitality of Dionysius. But after some days being mistrusted by his Landlord for some greater person than he appeared, it was thought fit to acquaint the Secretary therewith, who imagining he might be some spy, caused him to be brought before the King. Whereupon desiring Audience in Private, he was forced to unbosome himself to his Majesty, declaring his great sorrow for the Death of Parismus, and desiring his Majesties gracious assistance in revenging so horrid a murder upon Sicanus the Author thereof.

The King of Bohemia having recovered himself out of the surprize he was in at the first, imbraced Dionysius, and promised him his utmost assistance whereupon he was prevailed with to stay in Bohemia certain days.

CHAP. IV.

Sicanus invades *Thessaly*; the King of *Bohemia* and *Hungary* come to relieve it; The wonderful Exploits of the Black Knight; The fortune of the War refer'd to a Combat, which the Black Knight by a Letter promises to undertake on the behalf of *Laurana*.

Sicanus being return'd into Persia, complained of divers injuries & affronts offer'd him in the Court of Dionysius, whence he hardly escaped with the loss of three of his Attendants, whereupon he desired the King his Father to levy Forces, and go against Dionysius, to revenge the wrong he had done him. The King giving credit to Sicanus, and jealous of the honour of Persia called to him the aid of divers contributary Princes, & raised a mighty Army, consisting of near two hundred thousand men, which he soon Ship'd into vast Navy, and landed upon the confines of Thessaly.

News thereof being brought to the Queen by a poor Fisherman that was abroad at Sea, she was in sad distress, & committed the care of her Kingdom during the absence of Dionysius, to the Lord Remus, who with the Train-bands, & County-Troops, made what haste he could to their resistance, and so ordered the matter that ere they could land so vast an Army he had slain near twenty thousand of them. This success encouraged him to hope for a greater Victory, yet nevertheless he durst not stand them Battel, but made an honourable retreat towards the City while the Persians encamp'd in the plains of Pharsalia; the next day they approach'd & begirt the City of Thebes on every side, laying close siege thereto, & resolved either by famine or storm to force them to a surrender.

Olivia, Laurana, & the rest, with swoln eyes & a heavy heart, beholding the Murderer of Parismus, and the Author of Dionisius absence, as it were in triumph before the Walls, were uttering sad complaints of their miserable estate, when behold a Knight in Black Armour (whom therefore they termed the Black Knight) came out in full carrier, & waving his Sword thrice over his head, dared the whole Army of Persia to single combat. Wherein he was successful, even to admiration: for after a gallant overthrow of two Persian's horse & all, he was the third time encountred by one Bruster, a huge proportioned man, and the Champion of Persia, who met the Black Knight with such violence, that they shivered their Launces, and forced him to quit one of his stirrops, while Bruster himself was beaten back upon his horses Crupper. So soon had they recovered their Seats, but both drew their Swords, and began a very fierce Combat: which after a sharp dispute ended in conquest on the Black Knights side, for Bruster having lost the use of his Sword-arm

turned

turned tail and fled towards the Camp, which so amazed Sicanus and all the Persians, that they esteemed the Black Knight to be rather a Devil than a Man, seeing that after three such dangerous combats he stood unmoved, brandishing his Sword, and bidding defiance to Persia.

On the other side, the Queen and Princess seeing what wonders he had done in their behalf, not knowing of whence he was, sent a Page to invite him into the City, but he returning his duty and service, especially to the Princess, courteously refused their invitations for reasons he might possibly like to declare by word of mouth. This message being return'd, their wonder encreas'd who this Black Knight should be, but guessing, could no way add to their satisfaction, since none could resolve them though they should happen to guess the right.

The next day there was news of the arrival of the King of Bohemia, King of Hungary, and Prince of Sparta, who being severally incensed with the baseness of Sicanus's treachery, came with fresh supplies to the succour of Thebes, whereupon both the Persians and the Thessalians foreseeing great slaughter like to ensue, they drew up their several Armies in Battalia, and came to a Parley, the event of which was to decide the controversy by combat of three Knights of either side, upon condition that if the persian Knights overcame, then was Dionysius to deliver up his fair Daughter in marriage to Sicanus, and himself become subject to the Persian Crown; but if the Thessalian Knights got the better, then were the persians immediately to quit the siege, and Sicanus upon his honour to declare what he knew concerning the death of Parismus. These Articles drawn up and agreed to on both sides, there were twenty days allowed for preparing every thing in readiness against the day of combat, and in the mean time a truce made that no Acts of Hostility might be offered, but such as were voluntary.

During this Interval, several Feats of arms were performed dayly at Tilts and Turnaments between the two Armies, which afforded pastime to the Ladies of the Court, who took great delight in beholding the activity and success of the Black Knight: but at last it so hapned that one Pollipus of the persian Forces riding up to the Black Knight, and couching his lance, gave him fair warning to receive him, which contrary to every bodies expectation he refused to do, but turned his horse-head short about; pollipus wondring at his refusal, resolved to know the cause, but because he would not be seen to commune with an Enemy in private, he watcht his opportunity till the Evening, at which time seeing him riding out of the field, he made up to him, and desired to know the reason he refused him the same pastime he

has

had vouchsafed other Knights? because (said he) you wear the Armour of Pellipus of Phrygia, my trusty friend; that Pollipus, said he, am I, who onely beg to know how I come to deserve so honourable a Title, and who you are that vouchsafe it me; for that, said the Black Knight, it may be time enough anon, in the mean time if you please to partake with me in my poor quarters, perhaps I may communicate to you something worth your knowledge; though I can entertain you with nothing worth your acceptance, of which invitation pollipus willingly accepted, partly to be satisfi'd who it might be, but chiefly for the honour he bore him, and the delight he took in his company.

In the mean time the Theban Court rung with joy for the return of Dionysius who by this time was entered with the King of Bohemia, Hungary, and Prince of Sparta, whom he there entertain'd most splendidly, consulting with them about erecting Scaffolds, & making other preparations against the day of Combat. And while they were proposing Lord Remus, Oristus, & others for the Combatants, a comely Virgin, named Dina arrived at the Court, richly attired like a Forrest Nymph, & bearing in her hand an Escutcheon, whereon was the lively Portraiture of a dying Knight, wounded by Slaves & Buried in a Wood. Being admitted into the presence, she humbly did her Obeysance, and said she had a Message to deliver the Princess Laurana: being readily call'd she was presented with the Escutcheon, upon which were Engraved these Verses:

Since Victory on Vertue still attends,
Doubt not fair princess of successful friends;
To a strange Knight revenge of right belongs,
As well for yours as your Parismus wrongs;
Sent by the god of Love to end the strife,
And raise the dead Parismus unto life.

Having again & again perus'd these mystical Lines, she knew not what construction to put upon them, or what answer readily to return. But so generously likes the offer, that incivility she could do no less than accept of him for her Champion, though he promised such impossibilities. Therefore desiring the fair Messenger to return the Knight unknown her humble thanks for the tender of his service, she dismist her, with a rich Scarf to be presented to the Knight, & a costly Jewel for her self. Dina being gone left the Court full of joy for the news she brought, and of wonder who this Knight should be that had so nobly undertaken the Princess's quarrel. However, in civility, they seemed to watch whither she went, but resolved with patience to expect the Issue.

Chap.

CHAP. V.

The dreadful Battel between the six Knights, wherein the Black Knight and his party obtain'd the Victory; and discovers himself to be *Parismus*, wonderfully preserv'd by the Out-laws.

THe time appointed being come, and as well the persian as Thessalian Nobles being seated upon several Scaffolds, in equal expectation of success, the Knights of persia entered the lists, the first of whom was the valiant Zoilus, attired all in red, & mounted upon a Sorrel Stead; then the two valiant Brethren of Bruster, Brandor, and Ramon, came galloping in so triumphant a manner, as if they had already been victorious: several times they rode about the Lists, and wondred to see no enemy at hand; whereupon the persians began to give a mighty shout, which so dismaid the Thessalians they knew not what to say, but began to think the message brought by Dina, to have been a trick put upon them by the enemy. At last, after near an hours expectation, they beheld three Knights in silver'd armour coming towards them upon a hand gallop, who soon entered the Lists, and declared for the Thessalians. Their apparel, & Plumes, were all white, their Staves, Caparisons and furniture all alike, without the least distinction, save that one of them had on the Scarf Laurana sent him, and was therefore called the Princesses Champion.

Dionysius on the one hand descending from his Chair of state, gave them thanks for their readiness to engage in his quarrel, and promised great rewards if it so pleased the gods to grant them Victory. The Knight with the Scarf on the other hand declaring the great delight he took in so honourable a cause, vow'd that could he be so fortunate to serve the Princess Laurana, the honour gained thereby would be a greater reward than the Crown of Thessaly; these ceremonies being past, and the King retir'd, the Trumpets sounded a charge, and the combat began. The Knight with the Scarf encountred Zoilus, Pollipus Brandor, and the Out-law Ramon, amongst whom was shown as much courage and agility as could be expected, their Spears being all shiver'd at the first onset, they presently drew, and dealt about such fierce and fatal blows, that in short time the Out-law fell dead from his Horse, whereat the persians began a great shout, which they had no sooner ended, but Ramon coming to the assistance of Zoilus, had the misfortune to be run clean through the throat, and died immediately; Pollipus and Brandor fought a long time upon equal terms, but the Knight with the Scarf had much the advantage of Zoilus whom summoning all his strength he at last smote with such fury that he fell from his horse, whereupon the as-

sault-

sembly gave so great a shout, that the earth seem'd to quake, for there being two of the Thessalians left to one of the Persians, the Victory was adjudged to the Thessalians.

Hereupon the King of Persia according to agreement, commanded his Army immediately to withdraw, and Sicanus upon his honour to declare the truth of *Parismus* according to the best of his knowledge; Who thereupon reply'd; by the reverence I owe to my Lord and Father, with the rest of this honourable assembly, I denounce him for a Villain and a Traytor that does accuse me for the murder of Parismus, for by all the Powers of heaven I know nothing thereof, nor have been any way accessary thereto: In like reverence to this honourable assembly, said the Knight in the Scarf; I return that Villain and Traytor upon thy self, for that thou didst hire three Tartarians to murder him, who, as he was a Hawking set upon him in a wood and in barbarous manner run him in several places through the body, of which I my self am witness, who found him in that deplorable condition; all which I stand ready to justifie; and therefore as thou art a Knight and honourest arms, shew thy innocence by thy courage. Sicanus enraged hereat, seemingly accepted of the challenge, and withdrew to prepare himself: in the mean time the Thessalian Nobles, especially the Princess Laurana, considering the wounds he had received, entreated him not to engage in a second combat; to whom he reply'd, Madam, if it be your Highnesses pleasure, that the wrongs of *Parismus* shall go unrevenged, I most humbly submit; but I know, Madam, you are more generous, and therefore must beg your pardon. Whereupon giving him as it were consent against her will, *Sicanus* (as was supposed) entred the Lists, whom the wounded Knight at the first On-set unhorst, having broken two of his Ribs, and the company unlacing his Helmet to give him breath, found that it was not really *Sicanus*, but a person he had hired in his stead, which was so ill resented by the whole assembly, that they all concluded him guilty, and the King of Persia disowned him for his Son, so that betwixt grief and shame in short time after he dyed.

But the Victors being carried in great Triumph through the City, and presented with many rich gifts, at last arrived at the Court; where being received with all imaginable honour & acclamations, they were set down in chairs of state, the chiefest of the Kings Physicians being sent for to dress their wounds. Coming to take off the Knight in the Scarfs armour, it was found to be cas'd over artificially with Silver, & under it black Armour, so that when he was discovered to be the Black Knight, whom they thought to have been dead of his wounds in the Combat with Bruster Whereupon Dionylius

nysius embracing him afresh, left the unclasing of him to the King of Bohemia as the greatest honour; which the Black Knight would by no means suffer, but humbly kneeling, desired his Majesty to grant him one favour, which being consented to, he intreated his gracious pardon for the Murderers of Parismus. But being ask'd why he should make so unreasonable a demand; because, said he, Parismus is yet in good health; upon which words he immediately discover'd himself, to the joy and wonder of all there present. And then he at large related the story of his Miraculous preservation by certain Out-laws, who accidentally finding his wounded body in the Wood, they carefully convey'd him to their Cave, & chose him (after his recovery) for their General.

This story seem'd at first so incredible, that they hardly durst give credit to their own eyes, but every circumstance being fully related and consider'd, they were all as it were swallowed up with wonder for a time; but at last joy prevailed, & the King would have sent for Laurana once more to have welcomed the same person, though under a different character, but Parismus the more to surprize the Princess, desired he might be the Messenger himself, to which the King easily consented, & he was conducted to her Apartment; accordingly Parismus with the Lord Remus, coming to the Princess lodgings, found the door fast, and imagining she might be private, stood still a while, for fear of giving her a disturbance; but after a very short pause, they heard her tune up her Lute, begining in a solemn air, & most angelical voice, the following Song:

Kind Knight, I know thy promise was in vain,
To bring *Parismus* back to life again,
And yet how much is to thy courage due?
Who Nobly didst his Murtherer subdue;
For 'tis a part of happiness to be
Deliver'd from misfortunes we foresee.
All but my heart I give as a reward.
no Knight so mean a present would regard
It bleeds, it pants, so shatter'd is and torn
It merits not acceptance now, but scorn;
Yet poor *Parismus* shall this present have
Which I shall shortly carry to his Grave.

So passionate were her words, and so divine her voice, that Parismus could contain himself no longer, but roundly knock'd at the door, which Leda having opened, he entred with the Lord Remus: Leda shriek'd, & the Princess fell in a Trance, absolutely imagining she had seen the Ghost of Parismus. But after a long time Lord Remus had much ado to bring her to her self, & to perswade her to the truth of what she saw. Twenty times she examin'd her senses, to know if she were awake, & at last being fully convinced by a touch of his warm lips, that he was really and indeed the living Parismus, 'tis impossible to say which was greatest, her joy, or her wonder. So that after half an hours contemplation of each others happiness, the Princess in pity to his wounds conducted him into the Presence, and there openly declar'd her affection to him desiring the care of him might be committed to her charge, till he was perfectly recovered. This she did in so gallant and generous a manner, that none

could tax her with the least immodesty for so doing. Insomuch that Dionysius readily granted her request & promised to consummate her happiness in Nuptial bonds, as soon as Parismus should be recovered of his wounds, which was not long after.

CHAP. VI.

The Marriage of P*arismus* and *Laurana* going towards *Bohemia*, he by treachery is left with *Pollipus*, and *Violetta* (disguis'd as a Page) in the *Desolate Island*: she carryed by the Tyrant *Andramart* to the Island of *Rocks*, where in great affliction she is delivered of Parismenos, whom they threatned to murder if she would not submit to the Tyrants Lust, but is preserved by his Nurse: The Enchantment of the desolate Island dissolv'd, &c.

ANy now the Marriage of these two Illustrious persons being solemnized with a Magnificence becoming the bounty of Dionysius, & the merit of that Royal pair, they spent some dayes in the Court of Dionysius, with unexpressible satisfaction, esteeming each others happiness beyond the reach even of the most adverse fortune. But alas the best of men, and greatest of Princes are equally (and perhaps more) subject to the frowns of adverse fate, than the meanest Peasant. For by this time the King of Bohemia's affairs requiring his return into his own Country, it was requisite that Parismus & his Princess should attend him, whereupon great Preparation & sorrow being made for their departure, at the time prefixt they took a sad and solemn leave of the Court of Thebes, Dionysius with all his Nobles attended them to the Frontiers of his dominions, & returned with grief for the loss of so good company.

But it must not be forgotten, that Pollipus, who resolved to accompany Parismus into Bohemia, during his residence in Thebes, chanced to be enamoured of a Merchants only Daughter, named Violetta; but she out of a private kindness she bore to the Prince, notwithstanding his Marriage, and the impossibility of enjoying him, resolved to seek her fortune with him in Bohemia; to which end attiring her self in the habit of a Page, she came to Court, and soon got admittance into the Prince's service, so that in short time they got to the Port, and soon set sail for Bohemia: but the Vessels being small Yatchts or Pleasure-boats, and their attendance numerous, it was thought fit that Parismus, Laurana, Pollipus, Leda, and Violetta (now called Adonius) should go in one Yatcht, & the King of Bohemia, with his attendants in another: long they had not sailed but so fierce a tempest arose, that the ships soon lost one another, & the Princes Marriners being strongly driven to the Leeward, & in danger of standing, cut their shrowds, & took off their Masts by the board; but the Kings ship, whether from the skill of the Seamen, or ability of the Vessel, stood away to the Wind-ward, and tho' with some difficulty, made the coast of Bohemia. Parismus & Laurana being a comfort to each other in their distress, began to think all danger blown over with the Tempest, but were soon deceiv'd by the approach of certain Pyrates, who soon board-

ed

ed them under an assurance of conquest but by the irresistable power of Parisnus, Pollipus, & the rest, they met with so sharp a repulse that they were soon brought in subjection, many of them being slain, & the rest clapt under Hatches; wherefore, by advice of the Seamen, it was decreed to take out such goods as were of value, & with them to go aboard the Pyrates ship; this being done with equal courage and success, Parisnus ordered some of his men to go ashore, and take in a little fresh water for fear of the worst, which accordingly they did, himself, Pollipus, & Adonius accompanying them, a little to refresh themselves upon that pleasant shore; no sooner had the Pyrates notice of this advantage, but presently they broke up the Hatches, surprizing & securing the Seamen Parisnus had left aboard, & sinking the Princes Yacht to prevent pursuit, set saile for the Island of Rocks, to which they belong'd, Parisnus with the rest ashore seeing his disaster, would have done any thing to stop them in their flight: but being sensible that doing violence to himself was not a means of offering any to them, with great wisdom (I cannot say much patience) he attended the Vessel with his eye, while she was within ken & afterwards with prayers for the safety of Laurana, who, poor Lady was all this while insensible of her misfortune, & only wonder'd at the tedious absence of her Lord. Parisnus, Pollipus, and Adonius, in this distress knew not what courage to take, and therefore resolv'd to stay ashore, & hale the next Vessel; while the Mariners espying a smoak made that way in hopes of succour: but the Prince having spent the remaining part of the day in a thousand complaints of his own inadvertency, blaming fortune for faults himself was guilty of, & himself for such as it was too late to repent of; at last in the close of the Evening, an aged man in mean attire came up, & courteously saluted him with his associates, and began as follows. Gentlemen, I perceive you are strangers brought hither by stress of weather, otherwise you would never have landed upon so dangerous a coast. Truly Father, said *Parisnus*, you guess aright but I pray wherein lies the danger of the coast? Gentlemen, said he, if you will vouchsafe to accept of a poor lodging in a Hermits cell, I will acquaint you with the story more at large, where in mean safety you may pass away the night, which else on this shore may be *hazardous*: to this they *thankfully* consented, & departed with the *hermit*.

The poor Princess all the while knew not of her being a prisoner, till she came to land at the Island of Rocks, where finding her self in a strange place without the comfort of her Lord, she began grievously to afflict her self; but *Andramart* a great Tyrant, and Governour of that *Island*, having notice of his *beautiful prize*, came & courteously invited her into his castle, & there used her in most *obliging* manner, hoping thereby to gain her to his lustful will, but finding fair means ineffectual, he sent his sister *Adamasia*, who reproaching her in most ignominous sort, tottering her with knotty whips, & not allowing her or her Maid *Leda* necessaries for life, in such sort that she had well nigh perished. Nevertheless the vertuous Princess stood unmov'd and would never submit to *Andramarts* lust: thus for many months she lived, till at her time it pleased the Goddess *Lucina* to deliver her of a Son whom she named *Parismenos*, and put it out to Nurse. Then came the cruel *Adamasia*, & vow'd that unless she would yield to *Andramarts* love she would murder the Infant before her face. Nevertheless, she committed her vertue to the care of Heaven, and ut-

trely refused to give her consent. The Nurse hearing thereof, and having a tender love for so sweet a babe, fled with it into the Wilderness, and there perserved it many years.

Returu we now to *Parismus*, who by this time had understood that place to be called the *Desolate Island*, of which the said Hermit was once King, but was supplanted by *Bellona* a Sorceress, and driven to live in that mean estate, so having given an account at large, he desired them to accept of his hard bed to refresh themselves for that night, which for a time in civility they refused but with much importunity at last accepted of. The climate and season somewhat cold, they put *Adonius* in the midle, who poor heart! with a trembling kind of joylay all night between her beloved *Parismus* & her loving *Pollipus*, that little imagin d who they had to their bed-fellows So mean was their lodging, and so great their grief, that *Parismus* spent most of the night in sad complaints for the absence of his *Laurana*, and *Pollipus* for the unkindness of his *Violetta*; but the morning approaching, they all arose and by direction of the Hermit, went towards the castle, notwithstanding his earneast entreaties to the contrary Having viewed the castle stoutly scituated upon a high Rock, they heard the ringing of a small Bell, and in short time espyed six Knights in bright Armour ferrying over the Moat. *Parismus* with *Pollipus* knowing they should be assaulted, received them at their landing, and that with much magnanimity and success, that some fell back into the water and were drown'd, others lay dead upon the spot, and the rest submitted themselves This news being carried into the Castle *Bellona* her self came out to meet them with a smiling and pleasant countenance, whom *Parismus* took to be some beautiful Prisoner of the castle, but as he courteously addressed himself to her, she had that power with her Enchantment, to cause a deep sleep to come upon them all, and commanded forthwith that they should be carried Prisoners into the castle. When their senses were again restored, they were strangely surprised to find themselves fast shut in a Dungeon, and loaded with heavy Irons, having no other comfort left them but their to prayers to Heaven, and complaints to another Here they continued many moneths under as much hardship as the cruelty of a Tyant could inflict, for *Drubal*, paramour to *Bellona*, often sent for them before him, causing them to be tortur'd in divers manners, and taking delight in their afflictions But the Enchantress seeing the resolution of *Parismus*, and the comliness of his person began to entertain lustful thoughts for him, which she resolved to satiate, though with the loss of her life So that giving *Drubal* a stupefactive potion, she addressed her self in obliging manner to *Parismus*, causing his fetters to be taken off, and desiring him to walk with her into the Garden. *Parismus* wondring at this strange alteration, resolved to see the vent thereof & being come into a pleasant Wilderness, he soon apprehended her lustful inclinations, & yielding a seeming compliance therewith, he at last took his opportunity, and seizing her by the hair of the head, twisted her neck in such sort, that he set her face behind, whereof she immediately dyed.

This being done, a strange tempest of thunder and lightning arose, which made the very earth to tremble, and the Enchantment being broke, there appeared a mighty smoke about the castle, which immediately vanished, and left them as it were in plain ground After this the place seem'd full d with Fiends and damned Spirits, who in hideous sort began to torture *Drubal*, with his Servants and Officers, insomuch that for a time there was nothing to be heard but the groans and yells of damned Souls, enough to have terrified the hardiest Knight upon the earth Nevertheless *Parismus* with an immoveabe courage returned to find out *Popillpus* and *Adonius*, whose fetters were suddenly fallen off, & they in a strange amasement looking about them, but seeing *Parismus* in safety, they congratulated each others happy deliverance, and returned their thanks to Heaven that has so miraculously wrought the same The rest of the Prisoners likewise understanding that they owed their deliverance to *Parismus*, came in courteous manner and returned him their humble thanks; among t whom was the Wife and Children of *Antiochus* the Hermit, who were by this means restored to their Kingdom, which ever after they quietly enjoyed, rendring the same commodations for Ships and hospitable for Strangers, which for some years had been ruined and desolate, avoided by mankind as ominous and unfortunate.

Antiochus

Antiochus in gratitude to these worthy Knights, entertained them for some time courteously in his Palace, and at their request hung out a Flag of Truce to invite Ships into that port; *Parismus* hoping by that means to find an opportunity of going in pursuit of his *Laurana*. At last a Vessel of *Hungary*, under the conduct of *Barzilius*, put ashore, and at the request of *Parismus*, with a promise of great reward, stay'd there for some days, till he had prepared all things in readiness for the Voyage, and in solemn manner taken leave of that Court.

CHAP. VII.

Parismus arrives at the *Island of Rocks*, kills *Andramart*, and with his *Laurana* joyfully arrives in *Bohemia*; *Parismenos*, called the Knight of Fame upon a Vision refuses *Philana*, Daughter to the King of *Thrace*.

They had not sailed many Leagues to the North-ward, but near the same place where they were first attacqued, they were again boarded by the same Pyrates, whom likewise after a fierce engagement they once more subdued; but considering their former treachery, Parismus thought good to put the greater part of them to the sword; sparing onely some few to give him an account of the Princess and conduct him to the place where she was. Whereupon one of them giving him the story at large as has been before related, Parismus with Pollipus and Adonius, were overjoyed to hear of the Princess safety, and resolved to free her from imprisonment, or dye in the attempt; this resolution the Gods seemed to favour, for coming to the Castle-gate, they found Andramart just alighted from Hunting, with some six Servants, whom after a sharp dispute, Parismus with the help of Pollipus, and Barzillus, slew and subdued, and taking the Keys from Andramart, who would trust none therewith in his absence, they entred the Castle in Triumph, surprizing and slaying the servants of Andramart at their pleasure.

And now the main business was to find out the Princess *Laurana*, whom after a tedious and diligent search they met with, in a room no way fitted to her condition, but for its solitariness She was leaning her head against the bosom of *Leda*, with wringed hands and blubber'd eyes, uttering nothing but the sweet name of her beloved *Parismus*. Much ado there was to make these two (once more happy Lovers sensible of so blessed a change, but at last fill'd with the joyful apprehensions of each others safety, they spent the time in a most refined and spotless enjoyment of each other. By this time *Parismus* having understood the cruel usage *Laurana* met with, and the supposed murder of *Parismeno*, he revenged himself by the cruel death of *Adamasta* the Author thereof, and returned into his own Country, but with what joy these long absent Princes were received in the *Bohemian* Court, no Pen is able to express, nor any Reader sufficiently to comprehend.

Violetta, who in all their travels had been their bed-fellow, and was an eye and ear-witness to the sincerity of *Pollipus* his love, began to consider how imprudent and little less than dishonourable her passion for *Parismus* would appear, she began to harbour kind thoughts of her lover and find it no time to delay for that he was now taking his leave of *Parismus*, to go in quest of her, she discovered her to his unspeakable joy, and was in short time married to him with the greatest pomp and solemnity that Court would afford.

Parismenos by this time grown to some years, began to think himself born to greater matters than always to live in the woods, and tho his Nurse could give him account of his parentage, he found

found in himself a Prince-like mind, fitted for great atchiements; while he thought of these things, and was rambling up and down with his Nurse, resolving to seek his fortune, a Lyon met with them, and immediately seizing the Nurse slew her, but turning towards *Parismenos*, wag'd his tayl and fawned upon him, insomuch that the harmless youth very proud of his new Companion, made much of him, and went with him that night to his Den; but as he slept in the bosom of his bed-fellow, his Nurse seemed to appear to him, willing him to go to the Castle of *Andramart*, by which means he should know his parentage, and become a great Prince. Being awake in the morning, he considered of his dream, but knew not what the Castle of *Andramart* should mean; however he resolved to get out of those woods, and view the Country, and accordingly seeing a Castle upon a high hill at a vast distance, he bent his course that way, and before noon arrived there.

The Inhabitants of the Castle, tho now in subjection to *Parismus*, could not leave off their old trade of Pyrating; and seeing this strange youth, they took him aboard, in hopes of making some traffick with him, but meeting with a Vessel of *Barbary*, commanded by one *Egradam*, they met with so sharp a repulse, that had it not bee for the valour of *Parismenos*, they had certainly been taken; while this dispute lasted there arose a mighty tempest, which seperated the Combatants, and so shattered the Pirates ship that she foundred in the Sea, but *Parismenos* by good fortune getting astride a piece of the Main-mast, was driven ashore upon the Coast of *Thrace*. Where being courteously entertained by Duke *Amarenus*, he performed such acts of chivalry, that he was stiled the Knight of Fame.

During his stay in those parts, the King of *Thrace* ordained a general triumph to be held for certain days upon the account of his fair and only daughter *Philena*, to whom many Knights pretended affection, and therefore to end the controversie, the King decreed that whoever should win the prize, should marry his daughter After several brave atchievements by divers valiant Knights, it was *Parismenos* luck to win the prize. But having understood that *Philena* had already given her heart to one *Remulus* a Knight of *Thrace*, he very generously quitted his right in her and left her to her own disposal The same Evening the Goddess of love appeared to him in a vision, leading in her hand a most beautiful Virgin, whom when *Parismenos* had greedily view'd, attempting to grasp her in his arms, the Goddess thus reply'd:

Sir Knight of Fame, of Kingly Race begot,
This Lady for thy Princess I allot;
Whose name in Lybian *or* Natolian *Land,*
Thou with long search, at last shalt understand:
But e're that day you'l meet with great distress,
And prove that grief's the way to happiness.

Parismenos having duly considered her words, and bearing the perfect Idea of the beautiful Lady in his mind, he soon perceived she had not the least resemblance of *Philena*, and therefore being highly pleased with what he had done, he in short time departed towards the Country of *Natolia*, being nearer to that part of *Thrace* than the Country of *Lybia*

CHAP. VIII.

How the Knight of Fame met with *Angelica*, Daughter to the King of *Natolia*, was cast into the Lyons Den, made his escape, found his Parents, fought the second time with Lord *Collinius*, and marrying *Angelica* was crowned King of *Natolia*.

MAny dayes had the Knight of Fame travelled without any adventure, till arriving in a pleasant Valley, he alighted from his Steed by reason of the heat, and under the shade of a spreading Sycamore, bequeath'd his weary limbs to repose, when the fair Angelica, Daughter of Maximus, King of Natolia, (having that day forsaken the Golden Tower to meet her

Father

Father) past by, and spying Parismenos, supposing he had been dead, sent one of her Knights to see who he was, who being suddenly awakened, no sooner beheld the divine Angelica, but his fancy suggested her to be the same whom he had seen in the vision; so that mounting, and having satisfied her curiosity with a civil, but common reply, he mixt himself with her Train; The Princess soon after dropping her Glove, the Knight of Fame nimbler than any of her retinue, flung himself from his Horse, and with due reverence, and most sweet and charming grace presented it to her Highness, who freely gave it him for his pains. This favour being envy'd by the Lord Collimus one of her greatest Knights, he rudely commanded him to surrender it; but instead of a compliance found a repulse, being overthrown to the ground in the sight of Angelica, and the King her Father, who just at that instant entred the Valley and understanding the cause of their Rancounter, blam'd Collimus's rashness as much as the strangers Prowess, and having received what satisfaction he could of the Knight of Fame's quality, graciously invited him to the Court.

Here he got an opportunity to offer his vows to *Angelica*, who soon beheld him with gracious eyes; an attempt of no small danger, for by reason of an old prophesie, that her marriage should be the occasion of her fathers death, the King strictly guarded her in the Golden Tower from all addresses of that kind; and being advertized by some Court-ear-wiggs of their amarous correspondence, in a jealous fury imprisoned his lovely Daughter, and cast the Knight of fame (upon a feigned pretence of Treason) into the Lyons den where according to the natural instinct of those noble Beasts, refusing to offer the least violence to such a Royal prey, he continued there divers days in miserable languishment, feeding upon the garbidge and offall thrown into the Den, till the Keeper coming to clean it, whilst he stood amazed to find him alive, the Knight of Fame snatcht his Dagger from him, and made him swear to conceal his escape; in which auspicious fortune, directed his uncertain flight towards the Country of *Bohemia*, upon whose confines he was scarce arrived when he hard the dismal shrieks of a fair Lady, whom a insolent villian was about to ravish the brave *Parismenos* not used to trifle time in discourses upon such occasions, immediately made at him with his Sword, and after an obstinate fight, left him dead upon the spot: then turning to the Lady & having received her complements of gratitude, she requested him to conduct her to the *Bohemian* Court, for in truth she was no other than the before mentioned *Violetta*, who walking a little way from the Palace, had been surprized by a barbarous Out-Law named *Arbas*, from whose fury the Gallant Knight had thus happily Rescued her.

At the Bohemian Court upon Violetta's relation of his bravery, the Knight of Fame was sumptuously received; both Parismus and Laurana (who had oft heard of his renown) at first contracting a strange kindness, or rather passionate fondness towards him, especially the Queen, who some time after desiring an account of his life and adventures, he told them how his birth was unknown, but brought up in the Isle of Rocks, that his Nurse was slain by a Lyon, and most other accidents, adding that he was confidently assured by his Genius that he was of *Royal race*, but had no other evidence to clear his descent but a *jewel*, which his Nurse had charged him to keep. *Laurana*, who had felt unusal transports in her breast all the while he was speaking, no sooner saw the *jewel*, but she well remembred it, and at the same instant, clasping her arms

about

about his neck, we'comm'd him as her Son *Parismenos*, whom she supposed to have been slain by the Tyrant *Andramart*. Nor was *Parismus* less satisfied, his age, features, and other Circumstances so argeeing.

This discovery fill'd the whole Court with Joy and Triumphs, only Parismenos *still wore clouds upon his Face, and a deeper sorrow in his Heart; both for the absence of his* Angelica, *and the deplorable state he left her in, which being taken notice of by his Parents, he at last recounted to them the whole story of the mutual passion they had for each other, and the cruelty wherewith the King of* Natolia *had used him, who still knew, nor suspected) no less but that he was long since devoured by the Lyons.*

Upon this Ambassadours are dispatcht to the Natolian *Court by* Parismus, *complaining of the outrage, and threatning vengeance for the unjust death of his Son, who being answered by* Maximus *with slights and affronts,* Parismus *and his Son* Parismenos *with a gallant flying Army, enter his Territorries, but with a greater shew of Bravery than Hostility, not doing the least injury to any of his subjects; however* Maximus *to drive them out, raises a mighty force, and both Armies being in view of each other, after several skirmishes, at the intreaty of* Parismenos *who still concealed his being alive from the enemy his father offered to decide the justice of his Arms by single combate;* which being accepted of, Parismenos was the Challenger on the Bohemian party; and the Lord Collimus (a man alwaies of an enterprizing haughty spirit) undertook to answer him; but victory intall'd on the Sword of Parismenos, rendred him Conquerour. Whereupon an interview being had between the two Kings, and declaration of the young Princes prodigious escape; the Lady Angelica was by him demanded in honourable marriage; which in such a juncture, his Natolian Majesty, though not willing to grant, yet knew not how to deny; so that she being sent for into the field, the two happy Lovers were there contracted to their unspeakable satisfaction: but in vain poor mortals endeavour to avoid the decrees of fate, for in the Tilts and Turnaments performm'd in Honour of their Nuptials, by the fall of an over-crowded Scaffold, divers people, and particularly King Maximus her father was kill'd.

This disaster put a present damp upon those splendid solemnities, till time and better consideration had rendred the mourners obedient to the unavoidable Laws of Destiny, and then Parismenos having married the undoubted Heirels of Natolia, was joyfully received and crowned King of that potent Countrey; and having setled affairs, and magnificently treated his Father, at last was forced to take leave of him, who with honour and full satisfaction returned with his Troops to his own Dominions; leaving Parismenos possest of a mighty Crown, and thefar more valuable society of his dear Angelica; between whom were begot a Race of Heroes, whose renowned Actions shall in future Ages deserve a larger History than this; to which at present our weary Pen unwillingly subscribes.

LBMy'07

An End.